Handling a Potential SARS Patient

USNH Okinawa & Branch Medical Clinics

Step 1
Patient presents for evaluation of SARS ❶

❶ CLINIC PROTOCOL
If a patient presents for evaluation of SARS with c/o fever and/or cough:
- Place in isolation room for evaluation
- Place surgical mask on patient
- Staff wear N-95 mask to care for patient

Step 2
Has the patient traveled to an affected area in last 10d? ❷

No

Any known close contacts w/ SARS in the last 10 days? ❸

No

1. Reassure patient
2. Provide patient info
3. Address & appropriately treat symptoms

Yes

Yes

Step 3
Does the patient have a temp >100.5°F AND respiratory sx?

No

1. Reassure patient
2. Provide patient info
3. Address & appropriately treat symptoms

Yes

Step 4
Patient hypoxic, toxic, have abnl CXR, or need to be admitted?

No

Outpatient Care

1. SIQ at home
2. Give contact precautions
3. Collect blood and respir. specimens per CDC rec's
4. Address & appropriately treat symptoms

Yes

Inpatient Care

1. Admit to negative pressure isolation room with isolation, airborne, droplet precautions
2. Perform admission studies and specimen collection per CDC recommendations. ❺
3. Antibiotics and treatment as indicated. Ribavirin and steroids may be beneficial if truly SARS.
4. Inform Epidemiology Dept (#643-7808/7806) and Infection Control (#643-7541/7353)

❷ SARS-AFFECTED AREAS
(with demonstrated spread through the community...)
- China (Anhui Province)

❸ SARS CLOSE CONTACTS
- Close contact within 10 days prior to onset of symptoms with someone who has suspected (diagnosed) SARS disease or who returned with respiratory sx from an affected area.

- Close contact = having cared for, lived with or had direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of patient suspected of having SARS

RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Hypoxia
- CXR findings c/w PNA or ARDS

❺ ADMISSION STUDIES
- chest radiograph
- pulse oximetry
- P1, CBC, CK, LFTs
- blood cultures
- sputum Gram's stain and culture
- testing for viral respiratory pathogens (influenza A/B and RSV)
- for current CDC specimen collection guidelines see: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/lab.htm

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